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IPADS USED TO GO PAPERLESS | PAGE 3A



GREEK WEEK A 'SUCCESS' | PAGE 7A



SPRING GAME | SPORTS SECTION (B)



Kathryn Crimm, the conversational English coordinator for the Baptist Campus Ministry, tries on a University of Tennessee football helmet in the center of a discussion group at their meeting last week. The conversational English program meets once a week to compare and learn about different cultures. Last week's topic focused on American sports.

WKU talks library of the future

By ELIZABETH BEILMAN
news@chherald.com

WKU's libraries will be undergoing changes because as Bob Owen, vice president for Information Technology said, "obviously the world's changed."

Owen, along with Robbin Taylor, vice president for Public Affairs, and WKU's libraries, will look at better integrating technology into the libraries.

This will eventually mean eliminating bookshelves and freeing up some space, Owen said.

"We have witnessed and continue to witness the digitization of information," Owen said.

Owen said an idea that he will bring to a committee is to create a learning commons that is technologically friendly.

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 10A

Eckhardt fired from Honors College

By COLE CLAYBOURN
news@chherald.com

Amy Eckhardt, director of Scholar Development for the Honors College, was fired April 1 after numerous complaints about her behavior in the office.



ECKHARDT

In a letter obtained from WKU by the Herald via a Kentucky Open Records Act request, Honors College Executive Director Craig Cobane said the firing came after careful review of Eckhardt's employment to that point.

"As a result of a consistent pattern of behavior, I have lost confidence in your ability to lead and supervise the unit for which you are responsible," Cobane said in the letter.

SEE FIRED, PAGE 8A

BREAKING the BARRIER

International students can learn English through conversation

By SPENCER JENKINS
diversions@chherald.com

When senior Kana Okabe came from Aomori, Japan, to WKU in 2006, she didn't know much English other than "yes" and "no." Although she felt welcomed, she also felt ashamed while speaking to Americans because of her limited English knowledge.

Becoming part of the Baptist Campus Ministry's conversational English program boosted her confidence and comfort level.

Throughout the year BCM offers international students the chance to improve their

English speaking skills and help them adjust to American culture through activities and discussions.

Each Wednesday, BCM members and students and Bowling Green residents interested in the program meet at 7:30 p.m. at the BCM building on 1574 Normal Drive.

Kathryn Crimm, conversational English coordinator for BCM, said participants gain a comfort level in American society through the long-term friends they meet and build confidence in speaking English.

SEE BREAKING, PAGE 3A

“

One of the hardest points of learning a language is getting the confidence to speak. That's kind of what our function is."

—KATHRYN CRIMM
Conversational English coordinator, Baptist Campus Ministry

Gatton students finish high school with limited freedom



CHRISTIAN RANDOLPH/HERALD

Logan Eckler of Covington, right, and Austin Tang of Bowling Green play a game of Magic: the Gathering on Sunday on the third floor of Florence Schneider Hall, the home of the Gatton Academy.

By ZIRCONIA ALLEYNE
diversions@chherald.com

High school juniors and seniors might anticipate the amount of freedom they will have in college. For Gatton Academy students, college came early, but total freedom didn't come with it.

The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science opened at WKU in the fall of 2007, and Florence Schneider Hall became home to more than 100 high school juniors and seniors from counties across Kentucky.

Concentrating in math and science, students complete their last two years of high school, while earning 60 hours of college credit.

Luke Yap, an academy junior from Carrollton, said he wasn't really sure he would get accepted into the program.

"Everyone was at my level or smarter," he said.

After he was accepted, Yap posted it to his Facebook page and told his friends, who had mixed emotions.

"They were happy for me, but kind of disap-

pointed that I was leaving," he said.

Maintaining relationships at home was the beginning of change for Yap and other academy students.

Yap, 16, said his parents worried about him being away from home because he has diabetes.

"They worry about if I can take care of myself," he said. "Other than that I don't think they worry as much."

With parental and student concerns at hand, academy administrators maintain ongoing communication with parents.

Corey Alderdice, the assistant director for admissions and public relations at the academy, said that parents place a "tremendous" amount of trust in their student.

"For the first time in their lives students are flying solo," he said. "We live in a time where technology shrinks distance."

Residential counselors, or RCs, are on every wing for supervision, safety and support.

"They are more hands-on than the traditional RA on campus," Alderdice said.

SEE ACADEMY, PAGE 9A



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calendar

The Herald publishes a calendar in print every Tuesday and online every day. Submit your events to calendar@chherald.com. Deadline for the Tuesday print calendar is noon Monday. For more events visit wkuherald.com/calendar

tuesday

- Student Government Association senate meeting**, 5 p.m., Downing University Center 305
- Baseball vs. Kentucky**, 6 p.m., Bowling Green Ballpark
- Cultural Enhancement Series presents author Chuck Klosterman**, 7:30 p.m., Van Meter Hall
- WKU Steel Band Concert**, 7:30 p.m., fine arts center 189
- “A Taste of Honey,” 8 p.m.**, Gordon Wilson Hall Lab Theatre

friday

- One Planet Day/Earth Day celebration**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Centennial Mall & DUC Courtyard
There will be music, activities, vendors and informational booths.
- International Night**, 7-11 p.m., 4th floor of DUC

NEWS BRIEF

WKU makes summer hours change official

WKU’s administrative council met on Monday and approved a new summer schedule for the university that will run from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. from May 16-Aug. 12.

The main reason for the changes is to save money by not having to cool academic buildings during “higher demand hours,” according to an email from Tony Glisson, director of Human Resources. Employees will work for seven hours and be granted a 30-minute

unpaid lunch period each day. Glisson said summer classes scheduled for 3 p.m. will be accommodated, and those inconvenienced by the change could possibly work out special hours with their respective department heads. —Jonathan Lintner

thursday

- Valleypalooza: Maui in the Valley**, 1-5 p.m., the valley
- University Senate meeting**, 3:45 p.m., faculty house
- Earth-themed poetry slam**, 6 p.m., DUC courtyard
- Chess Club**, 6 to 9 p.m., Faculty House

saturday

- Gamers' Guild meeting**, 4 p.m. to 10:45 p.m., DUC 310B

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Fill in the grid so that every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9 with no repeats. Solutions, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com.

CRIME REPORTS

Reports

- Matthew Burries, McCormack Hall, reported on April 17 that his TV cable, Xbox and iMac computer were stolen from his room. The value of the theft was \$2,210.
- Brandon Roberts, McCormack, reported on April 17 that his laptop was stolen from his dorm room. The value of the theft was \$248.
- Stewart Parker, Barnes-Campbell Hall, reported on April 16 that his Dell laptop was stolen from the hallway outside his room. The value of the theft was \$500.

Arrests

- Larry Harbison, Bowling Green, was arrested on April 16 and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. He was released the same day on a \$1,000 cash bond.
- Cody Sexton, Calvert City, was arrested on April 16 and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. He was released the same day on a \$588.85 cash bond.
- John Cowley, Lexington, was arrested on April 15 and charged with alcohol intoxication in a public place. He was released the same day on a court order.

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New enrollment VP could start in July

By ELIZABETH BEILMAN
news@chherald.com

After extending the search for a new associate vice president for Enrollment Management, the head of the search committee said a candidate could fill the position by July.

“I do know that most likely, somebody would be selected at the end of May,” said Bob Owen, vice president of Information Technology and head of the search committee. “We would certainly want them on campus as soon as possible.”

The search, which originally began in November, was extended until April 15 to increase the number of qualified candidates.

The committee had previously narrowed the search to two finalists — Patsy Reynolds, director of admissions at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and Beth Wolfe, director of recruitment at Marshall University — before re-opening the search. Reynolds and Wolfe will still be considered.

Owen said the committee will meet

this week to narrow the pool to between eight and 10 candidates.

He said from there, the committee will conduct telephone interviews on April 25 and 26 to further decrease the number to three or four candidates.

During the weeks of May 9 and May 16, candidates will be brought to campus for another round of interviews, Owen said.

The committee will recommend candidates to Gordon Emslie, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, who will make the final decision.

Owen said if someone is chosen by the end of May, he or she would probably start in July.

The position deals with managing enrollment at the university by working with divisions such as admissions and financial aid offices and with prospective students, said Dale Brown, interim vice president for Enrollment Management.

Brown said when the position is filled, he'll return to the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences to teach two human resources classes.

STUDENTS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“It’s just kind of been a really integral part of our international student ministry, because it’s set up to be a warm and inviting place for international students to come and meet American students and for American students to meet international students as well,” she said. “Everybody can learn about everybody’s culture and practice language skills in a safe, homey environment.”

Crimm said the program has been educating multiple nationalities, including Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Indian, for about six years.

“One of the hardest points of learning a language is getting the confidence to speak,” Crimm said. “That’s kind of what our function is.”

There are some students who speak English well and others who barely speak any, she said.

Okabe said she was scared when the BCM invited her to the program, because she didn’t know anything about it, and she’s not a Christian.

“At the conversation club they don’t push Christianity, they really respect you as a person, not as a different religion,” she said.

Although the group doesn’t directly talk about their Christian faith, if Christian topics and questions come up the group will discuss them, Crimm said.

“We care about international students and where they come from and what they believe,” she said. “I personally want to know what they believe and learn about their faith. I find it fascinating.”

Will Whobrey, language partners coordinator for BCM, said he helps introduce international students to other interna-

tional and American students.

“Basically we pair international students and American students together to help practice English, build friendships and meet whatever kind of needs international students need,” he said.

Whobrey and Crimm said the participants’ discussions and activities include comparing American culture with other cultures in areas such as sports and dance. For example, during last week’s session, international students were taught about football and had their first experience putting on a football helmet.

Prachi Chavan, a graduate student from Mumbai, India, said she learned English throughout her schooling in India, so she’s comfortable speaking English in everyday life.

“It’s really nice to meet them,” she said. “It’s just once a week that we meet, and I feel very comfortable and I don’t think anyone who comes there feels uncomfortable.”

Anyone can join the program, Crimm said.

“The only prerequisite is an interest in getting to know people,” she said.

Crimm and Whobrey said that in previous semesters 15 to 20 international students would attend on average, but this semester they’ve seen a drop in attendance.

“This semester has been a little different,” Crimm said. “We have a lot of American students that come, and we have very few international students that come. From week to week we have three to five international students coming.”

Both Crimm and Whobrey said they don’t know exactly why attendance has dropped, but even if one or two people attended, they would still continue with the program.

NEWS BRIEF

Pop culture author’s lecture rescheduled for tonight

The final presentation in the Cultural Enhancement Series, a lecture by pop culture critic Chuck Klosterman, has been rescheduled for tonight in Van Meter Hall.

Klosterman, acclaimed author of “Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs” and “Eating the Dinosaur” was originally scheduled to

give the lecture in March but canceled after he had a death in his family.

Klosterman will discuss how pop culture becomes associated with memories, how it shapes the identity of both people and society and how people perceive and interact with the world.

The presentation starts at 7:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

—Laurel Wilson



JERRY ENGLEHART JR. / HERALD

President Gary Ransdell said he has his laptop with him most of the time, but he doesn't use it as much as his iPad for day-to-day tasks. He has access to all his emails and music, along with his daily planner, which allows him to stay on task.

iPads promoting paperless meetings

By JONATHAN LINTNER
news@chherald.com

President Gary Ransdell last Friday scrolled through the apps on his iPad, which, when the screen is locked, shows a worn area where the device’s heavily used keyboard appears.

The sound of “bloop, bloop” interrupted his speech. One noise alerted Ransdell of an email from a group of university presidents discussing tuition hikes. Another regarded a conference call for the Bowl Championship Series for which he represents the Sun Belt Conference.

Ransdell said he hadn’t used an actual computer that day except to take a survey in the morning.

“I just use my iPad for everything I possibly can,” he said.

Ransdell and some of his senior administrators, which includes division vice presidents and the provost, have used iPads for about a year.

The devices were paid for by the administrators’ division budgets and were bought for two main reasons: to make meetings paperless and to keep administrators ahead of the technology curve.

“I’ve tried to encourage them to lead by example,” Ransdell said. “If we want our students to be technologically current, we should be as well.”

Bob Owen, vice president for Information Technology, said about half the administrative council uses iPads, while the other half uses laptops during meetings.

“The whole idea is being electronic,” Owen said.

But iPad use isn’t limited to just the weekly meetings, as Ransdell will attest to.

Among his favorite apps are Facebook and National Geographic. Ransdell has a few games, including Angry Birds and Paper Toss, and he stores more than 100 songs on the device.

When Ransdell travels, he doesn’t take a computer — just his iPad — and uses it for everything from reading to accessing email and maps, the latest of which he still had from an April 9 visit to see WKU Army ROTC cadets in Fort Campbell.

Deborah Wilkins, chief of staff and general counsel, has been assembling the agenda for administrative council meetings digitally since January.

Wilkins said in the past, matters discussed at meetings likely resulted in stacks of papers inches thick that were read once and immediately thrown away or recycled.

Ransdell said making the meetings completely paperless is still a work in progress.

“I’m probably the worst,” he said, laughing. “I usually show up with a bunch of stuff anyway.”

Attempting to run a paperless meeting has brought about other benefits, such as the ability for council members to access documents, memos and reports while out of town or away from campus. Owen said Information Technology set up a shared folder for administrators to store those files.

Wilkins said “the jury is still out” on whether the new system is a good way to operate.

“But we’re working on it,” she said. “We’re trying to get away from all the paper.”

For more info, news and photos visit wkuherald.com

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Playing fair

Spirit teams deserve scholarships

THE ISSUE: WKU cheerleaders, Topperettes and Big Red Marching Band members do not receive significant, all-inclusive scholarships that other athletic teams do.

OUR STANCE: Since the teams put in as much effort as the athletic teams, they should receive more scholarship assistance.

As athletic seasons begin and end every year, coverage and spectator attention is usually focused only on the teams on the field or on the court. Through fluctuating attendance numbers, shaky seasons and other sports drama, the ones who remain supportive are the cheerleading and dance teams and the marching band.

But the university does not return the favor.

Members of the coed and all-female cheerleading teams, the Topperettes dance team and the marching bands – classified as “Traditions” or “Spirit Teams” on the WKU athletics website – are bound to many of the same rules as other sports teams. They have travel requirements in their policies, meaning they often miss classes. And they have demanding morning and late practices, meaning they have to sacrifice just as much and still find time for studying and assignments.

Also, since the Spirit Teams perform routines that display their stamina, agility and athleticism, they exert energy and specialized skill like other athletic teams do. They are also at risk for serious injury.

With all of those factors considered, it seems unfair that Spirit Teams do not receive scholarships for their

work. Some would argue, then, that every hard-working student should receive a scholarship. But since the Spirit Teams provide a service to WKU by acting as public relations promoters, representing WKU well in national competitions and supporting the teams, win or lose, it is not unreasonable to expect WKU to provide enough to at least cover their tuition.

According to their policies, the programs might offer minimal, partial scholarships or stipends if funds are available, but these scholarships do not cover meals, books or other fees.

Surrounding schools, including the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville, offer tuition scholarships to members of equivalent teams through their teams’ programs, endowed memorial scholarships or private donors. WKU has measured itself against other state schools before on issues from the smoking ban to stricter admission requirements. This issue should be no exception.

Ideally, the first step would be to recognize the Spirit Teams as athletic teams, not simply traditions. Perhaps then, a guaranteed scholarship would be more welcomed.

If the spirit makes the master, WKU first must energize the “spirit.” Since the teams work all season to keep fan and team spirit high, no matter the score, they should be rewarded.

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald’s 10-member editorial board.

the VENT

Something on your mind? Let it out. E-mail us at opinion@chherald.com.



ALLISON PARKS
Raleigh, N.C.,
freshman

"There should be more flexibility in letting siblings into the dorms."



WALKER BRUNS
Atlanta junior

"Willie Taggart is the bomb! We're going to dominate this coming season."



ERIN HOLTON
Somerset
freshman

"I think we should be able to use more than four meal plans a day. I end up wasting money on Sunday when I have six left to use and can only use four."

have an opinion?

Write a letter to the editor (250 words or less) or a commentary (500 words and a photo). E-mail them to opinion@chherald.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Freshman reflects on Greek Week

The Greek Week convocation was Sunday, and Greeks from all over campus poured into the Carroll Kniceley Conference Center with the hopes of being awarded the best sister/brotherhood or Greek Week overall winners. However, something hit me as I observed the Greek community as a whole; we have a serious problem.

As a freshman this year during Rush, I was encouraged by all sororities it was more important to “Go Greek” than to join a specific organi-

zation. There was a sense of unity that was portrayed. Whether it was left on the stage after Spring Sing or in the in mud after Tug, it was definitely not in the convocation last night. Greeks seem to have become more concerned with who can assemble felt on a banner best and less with what it means to be Greek.

We are leaders on campus that strive for excellence in service and making WKU a better place. Instead of competing for points and paper awards, why not host a Greek Ball for all Greek organizations, where profit from tickets benefits a cause that

changes every year? Or host a “Greeks Clean up Bowling Green” day where chapters make our community shine? The blood drive and philanthropy day are welcome to stay. We all chose our particular chapter for a reason; it had nothing to do with a point system. It was based on the feeling we had when we were with them.

Let’s spread that feeling around our community and show what Greek Week should really be.

Sydney Lutsch
Taylor Mill freshman



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4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.
6. Submissions must be received by 7 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.

WKU Forensics team succeeds nationally

By TAYLOR HARRISON
news@chherald.com

President Gary Ransdell likes to honor organizations by inviting them over to his house for dinner when their respective seasons end.

“If they win,” Ransdell said, laughing.

After claiming a championship in the American Forensic Association Individual Events Tournament, WKU’s forensics team secured a May 3 dinner date at the president’s home.

The team spent this week-end competing at another national tournament, the National Forensic Association National Tournament, where WKU entered as defending champion.

Jace Lux, first-year forensics director, said the team — which encompasses debate, public speaking and dramatic interpretation of literature — is the oldest student organization on campus.

Lux said that documents have been found about a forensics team at what is now WKU from as early as 1903. He said the team experienced a resurgence in popularity in the early 1990s.

Lux said the forensics team isn’t something students take lightly, comparing it to how athletes practice and play sports.

“They train in a different way, but they still train rigorously, and it takes a big commitment on their part,” he said.

Lux said the students on the team are all interested in a variety of different things. While some focus on public speaking, others might exclusively take part in debates or dramatic interpretations.

Sarah Rainey, a senior from Snohomish, Wash., focuses on the debate side of forensics. Rainey said she prefers debate because “it’s a constant process of updating.”

“I’ll normally put in about five hours with coaches per week, and then outside of that I have to be working on my own affirmatives and cases, and so I probably put in another good five to 10 on my own,” she said. “And then that doesn’t include tournaments.”

However, Rainey also said that the effort has “most definitely” been worth it.

Lindsey White, a freshman from Apple Valley, Minn., does interpretation of literature and a form of public speaking called after “dinner speaking,” which she referred to as “stand up with resources.”

“It’s a lot of hard work, and sometimes you have days where you’re just like, it’s too much,” White said. “But at the end of the day it is something that changes you. It makes you a better speaker and develops you as a person, so it’s worth it 100 percent.”

A rule states that each student must participate in at least three events, but they don’t have to do an event within each category.

Some juniors and seniors greatly exceed the requirement, participating in as many as eight to nine events.

“I can’t say it enough how proud I am of the preparation that these students have done,” Lux said.

He said the students have a lot of grueling work to do for national tournaments. The tournaments usually last more than four days, and 10 or 12 hours a day.

Ransdell said many on the team are on scholarship.

“I like it because it’s such a cross section of students,” he said. “We recruit them aggressively ... and they cut across the college disciplines. They’re elite kids who work their tails off and succeed in high-pressure situations.”

One Planet Day puts twist on Earth Day tradition

By KATHERINE WADE
news@chherald.com

WKU students are challenging their campus community to help make this Earth Day different.

Earth Day, which takes places on April 22, is a 41-year-old tradition of promoting awareness and appreciation for the environment. This year, WKU students are celebrating by launching a campaign called One Planet Day.

Matt Vaughan, a senior from Mexico, Mo., said One Planet Day is an effort by WKU students to re-imagine Earth Day.

“The goal is to take Earth Day from this routine, annual celebration and turn it into a unique challenge ... to make tangible commitments for more sustainable action,” Vaughan said.

To give students an opportunity to plan events for Earth Day, the WKU Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility created a One Planet Day course.

One Planet Day is based on a set of 10 principles of sustainability established by BioRegional and the World Wildlife Fund. The principles are zero carbon, zero waste, sustainable transit, sustainable materials, sustainable food, water, health and happiness, culture and heritage, fair trade and the local economy, and land and wildlife.

The goal of the event, according to oneplanetday.org, is to “take the tradition of Earth Day to the next level, by challenging individuals to make pledges of concrete action towards living within the means of our one planet.”

Louisville freshman Molly Kaviar said she took the One Planet course because she wanted to be a part of helping on Earth Day.

Kaviar said she hopes asking students to commit to sustainable action for a day will change their lives.

“Earth Day is sort of a reminder of how we should be living regularly,” Kaviar said. “If people see how

WKU Earth Week events

■ Wednesday 7-9 p.m.

MMTH Auditorium
The Elegant Solution: Climate Solutions Cut Costs, Create Jobs and Stabilize Our Economy by Sarah Lynn Cunningham. Free and open to the public.

■ Thursday 6-8 p.m.

DUC Courtyard
Earth Themed Poetry Slam - Guests are encouraged to read their original poetry or can choose from a selection of poems by writers such as Wendell Berry and Frank X Walker. The poetry slam is sponsored by the Office of Diversity. Free and open to the Public.

■ Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

WKU Centennial Mall & DUC Courtyard
- One Planet Day/Earth Day Festival Live music performances throughout the day on the stage
- DIY Area by We the People: Skills will include how to make household cleaners, shampoo, composting, etc., 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Local Foods Lunch at Fresh

Foods, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Ecofeminism Day: Equity Bake Sale, where the WKU Gender & Women’s Studies Program will be selling baked goods, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Earth Day speech by Bob Hatfield, director of WKU’s MBA program, 12:30 p.m.
- Garbology: campus waste audit at the corner of DUC, Academic Complex & South Lawn, 1-3 p.m.
- Recycled Materials Fashion Show by the Department of Consumer & Family Sciences students, 2 p.m.
- Big Red Bike Maintenance Workshop, 2:30 p.m.
- Wildlife Garden planting between Bates Runner and McLean halls, 3 p.m.
- Ride with Big Red Bikes, 3-4 p.m.
- International Night on the fourth floor of DUC. Attend to enter raffle with One Planet Day punch cards to win sustainable and fair trade prizes, 7-11 p.m.

Source: Sustainability Coordinator
Christian Ryan-Downing

easy it is to do for one day, maybe they’ll start to do it more often.”

The One Planet Day Festival will take place at the Downing University Center courtyard and Centennial Mall from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday. The festival will include live music, speeches and opportunities for sustainable action.

Vaughan said supporters wanted to host a big event to reignite the spirit of activism and community on campus.

“There is a real need on this campus to just get everyone active and interested in sustainability and social justice,” he said.

Upon arrival to the festival, visitors can get a card listing each of the 10 principles. There will be tables spread across campus where participants in the festival can get each principle stamped for com-

pleting a sustainable action. For example, there will be tables in each of the dorms, and if a resident brings down recycling, they will get “Zero Waste” punched on their card.

Once all 10 principles on a persons’ card are punched, they can be entered into a raffle. The winners will be announced at the International Night at 7 p.m. in DUC.

Vaughan said the whole concept of One Planet Day comes down to the fact that everyone is in this together, sharing the same planet.

“At the end of the day, regardless of a persons’ political ideologies, their faith or lack thereof, most people would tend to favor a healthy and happy future for all of us,” he said. “So with one day, we can try to move a step further on the path to that better future.”

His class starts in 15 minutes.



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Jessie reflects on year as president

By MIKE STUNSON
news@chherald.com

Student Government Association President Colton Jessie feels as though he had a successful year highlighted by a number of accomplishments.

Jessie, a senior, is seeing his term as president wind down, and his successor, Billy Stephens, has already been elected.

As president, Jessie was in office while SGA gave out more scholarship money than ever and increased its organizational aid fund. The scholarship fund was raised \$8,000, while org aid increased to \$40,000 this year.

"It's a good feeling to know how helpful we are being to students," Jessie said.

But Jessie's legacy could be cemented in heading the movement for renovations on Downing University Center. After the SGA senate unanimously approved renovations in February, construction is scheduled to begin in the fall.

"It's definitely a big deal — one of the biggest things SGA has done in a while," Jessie said. "I feel really good about it."

President Gary Ransdell said Jessie took the initiative to begin talks about renovations.

"He's taken on this whole DUC renovation thing and kind of laid it out there and said, 'If there's ever a time we're going to do this, we ought to go about it,'" Ransdell said.

But Jessie said he is just as proud of the DUC renovations resolution as he is of some other bills.

"The senate has passed some legislation we have never seen before, like reimbursement for CLEP exams and providing



DOROTHY EDWARDS/HERALD

Student Government Association President Colton Jessie was elected in March of last year, and his term is up in May. "This has been a good experience for me," he said. "It was a full-time job and a lot of hard work. I feel satisfied stepping back and seeing what they will do this coming year."

test prep books to libraries," he said. "This might not be as exciting as the renovations, but it's still a big part of my presidency."

Jessie said he can't take sole credit for any one thing that happened while he was president and insists it was a collective effort from the executive and legislative branches as well as the senators.

"My cabinet has been great to work with," he said. "Everybody we have had has been fantastic and has been in a lot of work."

Charlie Harris, who serves as Jessie's chief of staff, said it was an honor working under Jessie.

"He's an exemplary president and will definitely be up there with the greats who have held the office," Harris said.

Harris was a part of SGA his first three semesters at WKU but left to focus more time on other activities. Jessie convinced Harris to come back last fall for his senior year.

"Seeing Colton's commitment and passion was what brought me back," Harris said.

Ransdell said Jessie has been a "great" SGA president.

"He's been good to work with," Ransdell said. "He's been very constructive and wanting to get things done."

Jessie already has a job lined up after he graduates next month. He's moving to Chicago to work for Teach for America, which hires leaders to teach in underprivileged school districts.

"I'm really excited for this next step," Jessie said. "I think everything I have done with SGA has prepared me."

“

He's an exemplary president and will definitely be up there with the greats who have held the office."

—CHARLIE HARRIS
Chief of staff

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New Participants in Greek Week add to its success

By JOANNA WILLIAMS
news@cherald.com

Greek Week came to an end at Sunday's convocation, with a celebration of the week of philanthropy and competition among Greek organizations.

Charley Pride, director of Student Activities and Organizations, said this year's Greek Week was successful and is a testament to the students' hard work.

"This is basically student-led, and it's been a great experience for them," he said.

For the first time in many years, two organizations from the historically black National Pan-Hellenic Council participated, Pride said.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity took part in several Greek Week events, he said.

Pride said he hopes other NPHC organizations will want to get involved after seeing how much fun the AKAs and the Alphas had during the week.

"I hope that they will be encouraged to do it, because it's fun and exciting," he said. "We like it when all our groups participate."

Hunter Williams, coordinator of Student Activities, said that having participants from NPHC, Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Association is good for everyone involved because it brings them all closer together.

"By Alpha Kappa Alpha and Alpha Phi Alpha getting involved with Greek Week, it truly embraces that we are in this together," she said. "It further unifies all the groups."

A total of 1,563 units of blood were collected in the Greek Week blood drive, which exceeded their goal of 1,400 units and is the most they've ever raised.

More than \$6,000 was raised on Philanthropy Day at Saturday's tailgating for the spring football game. The money will go to Hotel Inc., a local charity that



CHRIS WILSON/HERALD

Alpha Delta Pi sorority members pull against Alpha Gamma Delta sorority members at tug on Friday. Rain was expected, but the clouds passed and the sun came out near the end of the event. Kappa Delta won the sorority title, and Alpha Gamma Rho won the fraternity title.

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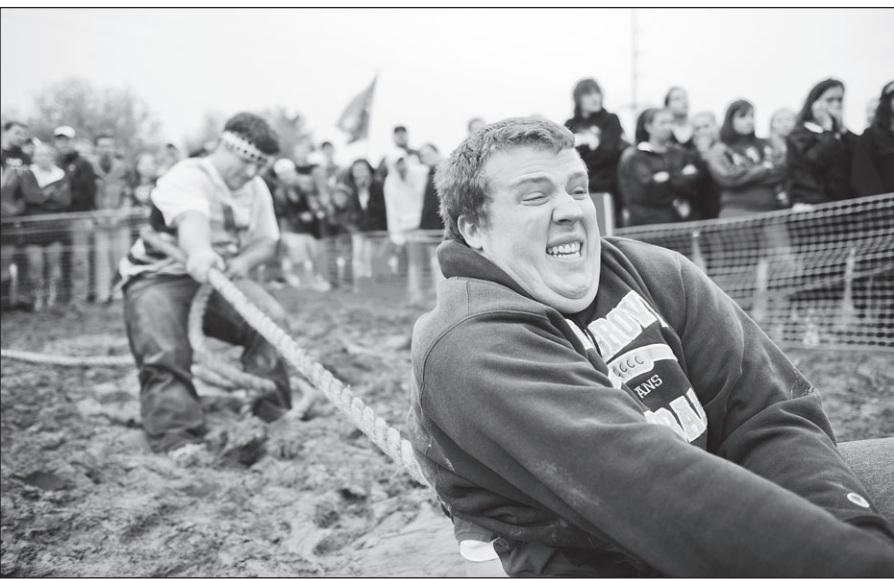
Kappa Delta sorority and FarmHouse fraternity were the overall winners of Greek Week. Both of them won last year as well.

Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and the KDs won tug on Friday.

Phi Mu won the final award of the night, the Karen Towell Sisterhood Award, which is given to the sorority that's been the most unified and involved throughout the year.

Phi Mu President Sara Sotelo said that before the award was announced, all the members were holding hands in anxiety.

"It feels amazing," she said with tears in her eyes. "Competition is fun, but having something to show for your sisterhood is great."



JABIN E. BOTSFORD/HERALD

Alpha Tau Omega fraternity's anchor Dylan Baker, left, and Benjamin Luedtke, right, strain in the mud as they pull on the slippery rope during Tug on Friday.

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COLUMN

Freshman: There's no place like the Hill

By MERCEDES TRENT
diversions@chherald.com

The first thing one of my new friends asked me when I arrived on campus was, "Do you have a Red Towel yet?" And then he tossed me one.

Holding the rough cloth in my hand, I remember wondering what I was supposed to do with it and what it was in for.

In the months since, that Red Towel has been useful. I've swung it over my head at athletic events while yelling my lungs out, used it to get hot dishes out of the oven and followed the towels on WKU signs to navigate my way back to campus.

The spirit of the Red Towel is important when identifying yourself as a Hill-topper. And when we say "Hilltoppers," there's an important, probably breathless, emphasis on the word 'hill.'

After a few days on campus, I realized it's not just a nickname. The Hill is part of my everyday culture here. I love arriving to class and panting as I take my seat, my classmates nodding in understanding.

That sense of mutual understanding, of community, is what I love about WKU. When I got to college, I decided I wanted to try some new things that would have been restricted to me back home, like Greek life.

WKU gave me so many opportunities to try things like this and, through these opportunities, so many new types of people to work with and befriend.

I've interacted with more people while

at WKU than I probably ever did in my small hometown of Winchester, and that has been invaluable. Also, I've enjoyed the many ways WKU offers to expand interests and knowledge outside the classroom (and usually pick up a little extra credit), by taking advantage of its guest speakers, events and clubs.

A typical day for me is never the same. Some days, I have sorority meetings to attend, Herald interviews to conduct, classes and homework, while others I may have an extra credit lecture, a Pilates class at the gym, a charity event and an on-campus concert. Many nights end late with GADS runs, and too many Saturdays have been spent shopping at the mall and the second-hand boutiques or in the car for a small road trip to Nashville. Sundays are soccer and Frisbee days, and I can almost always find a game to join on South Lawn or in the Valley.

I've also spent plenty of nights inside, lounging in the hall with the people in my dorm. Sometimes a friend cooks us desert on the floor kitchen and we sit in the hall outside, holding the door open and reading magazines aloud to one another. I've gone to other dorms to play card games with international students, and I met my closest sorority sisters standing in the dinner line at Bene Pasta.

WKU is the kind of environment where you can comfortably meet so many people and become a part of so many unique things that maybe you've always looked forward to doing or that maybe you had no idea how perfect you were for.

Hanging around



ARMANDO SANCHEZ/HERALD

Owensboro sophomore Bo Armstrong reads his Bible for his New Testament class outside of Grise Hall on Monday afternoon. Armstrong was given a hammock as a Christmas present, but hadn't used it until yesterday.

FIRED

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Cobane said that at Eckhardt's annual performance review on Feb. 28 and again on March 8, he directed her to promote "positive relationships" with her staff and other colleagues.

Cobane alleges in the letter that Eckhardt created an "emotionally and psychologically abusive and hostile office environment."

When reached at her home last week, Eckhardt, who is technically under contract with WKU until April 30, declined to comment for this story.

Cobane's letter states that Eckhardt is not to have contact with any "on-campus entities" or she could be removed from WKU's payroll before the end of the month.

In addition to the first allegation, Cobane alleges that Eckhardt subjected staff to "personal rants and complaints, thus putting them in an uncomfortable and very stressful situation."

The letter also states that Eckhardt was "denigrating students and staff in public areas" where other staff and students could hear her "inappropriate" comments.

Performance reviews within Eckhardt's personal file were not made available in the records request.

The letter states that while the decision to fire Eckhardt was made for cause, WKU reserves the right to fire anyone "at will" under Human Resources Policy No. 20-100.

Deborah Wilkins, chief of staff and general counsel, said firings for full-time employees at WKU are uncommon.

Including Eckhardt, seven employees have been fired since Jan. 1 of this year. Four of those were building service attendants, one an assistant professor, and another a teacher at the child care center.

Wilkins said Audra Jennings has been appointed interim director of Scholar Development. Jennings also serves as the undergraduate research coordinator for the

Reasons given

Honors College Executive Director Craig Cobane laid out reasons for Amy Eckhardt's firing in a termination letter to Eckhardt obtained by the Herald. She declined to comment on the allegations.

1. Creating an emotionally and psychologically abusive and hostile office environment
2. Subjecting staff to personal rants and complaints, thus putting them in an uncomfortable and very stressful situation
3. Denigrating students and staff in public areas where other staff and students could hear the inappropriate comments
4. Casting dispersions and negative comments about various WKU staff and leadership, which demonstrates disloyalty to your employer and, considering your position, undermines the mission of the College and WKU
5. Making false statements in public areas regarding other employees' "opinions" about particular students, which creates distrust between students and university staff

Honors College.

Eckhardt was officially hired by WKU on July 1, 2008.

She worked closely with students on nationally competitive scholarships such as the Fulbright and Goldwater scholarships.

She also worked with the Chinese Flagship Program.

Eckhardt's initial salary was \$72,000 per year. Her salary was \$73,008 per year at the time of her termination.

Cobane said he will be doing a search sometime in the "near future" to find a full-time replacement for Eckhardt's position.



Alicia McDaniel of the chemistry department performs a chemistry magic show for about 187 girls and parents on Saturday in Snell Hall for WKU's annual Girls in Science Day. "I ask myself who has more fun, me or the girls. And I think it's me," McDaniel said after the show.

WKU Girls in Science Day helps bridge science gap

By KEVIN ALLEN
news@chherald.com

Women in science and engineering at WKU worked to inspire the next generation of scientists Saturday with the 10th annual Girls in Science Day.

The event targets girls in grades four through eight and aims to get them interested in science, said Rachel Campbell, educational observatory scientist and director of the event.

"We felt that there was a gap — somewhere along the way we were losing girls in scientific professions," Campbell said. "We identified that happened around the middle school age group."

The event had 210 participants in 13 workshops, which included creating silly putty, working with circuits and building small catapults.

The workshops are designed to cover a full range of sciences including archaeology, chemistry, physics and astronomy, Campbell said.

Each workshop was overseen by a mixture of faculty and student volunteers so that the participants could talk about careers and opportunities in sciences, Campbell said.

Meghan Kennedy, a Louisville sophomore and one of the volunteers, said the interest in the event was very exciting.

"The girls are just so excited," Kennedy said. "A lot of the applications are filled out in their own handwriting with little hearts on the i's and smiley faces because they want to be a part of it and do it themselves."

Kennedy said it was sometimes hard to get the girls to move on to the next activity, because they were so into it that she didn't want to have to tell

“

We felt that there was a gap — somewhere along the way we were losing girls in scientific professions. We identified that happened around the middle school age group."

—RACHEL CAMPBELL
Director of Girls in Science Day

them to stop.

Berea senior Nicholas Wright directed a workshop that dealt with polymers and how they could be used to make silly putty and foam shapes.

Wright said watching the girls' reactions was the best part, as some of them would make comments like "Oh my God, this is amazing" while watching a mixture in a cup expand into a foam mushroom.

He said he was definitely going to try and volunteer next year because he enjoyed teaching and having fun with the girls.

The event ended with a chemistry magic show, featuring tricks such as creating a mixture of chemicals that allowed the performer to hold a flame in her hand.

ACADEMY

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Yap said he has a close relationship with the RCs because they are always there if he needs them.

"They're like our live-in parents," said Eminence junior Rachel Metcalfe.

The academy established a Student Handbook and an Adventure Week to help with the transition.

The handbook outlines requirements such as curfews, class attendance, study hours, behavioral expectations and discipline policies.

"For some students this will be the most freedom they've ever had and for others, this may be the strictest," Alderdice said. "But these are the parameters we've established for the school as a whole."

According to the handbook, academy students have curfew at 10:30 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday and weekend curfew at midnight. Academy students must be accompanied by another academy student if they go off campus.

Although she has her license, Calloway junior Hannalore Clause and other students usually carpool with a senior who lives nearby.

"We can't just check out and drive our cars around Bowling Green," she said.

Students turn in their keys at the front desk during the week and check them out to travel home during closed weekends, which are once a month.

Alderdice said the maturity

level of the student helps with the transition, along with Adventure Week.

Similar to MASTER Plan, Adventure Week prepares students for college classes, residential life and developing study skills.

Metcalfe said she had to learn how to study when she came to college.

"At my old high school, I just breezed by and didn't have to study," she said.

Although the course work is harder, Metcalfe said she feels more academically challenged than she would have at Eminence High School, which didn't offer any advanced placement courses.

However, she does miss playing basketball and volleyball, which she did in high school.

Academy students cannot participate in NCAA sports and Greek life, Alderdice said.

"Otherwise, if it's available to a WKU student, it's available to academy students," he said.

The academy offers clubs such as Green Club and Beta Club and a reserved academy seat in the Student Government Association, Clause said.

She was nominated to be the Beta Club president her senior year.

Clause said she likes the atmosphere at the academy more than her previous high school.

"I felt kind of like an outcast, because I wanted to be challenged," she said. "Here, we all have a passion and that helps me strive higher."

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Author Nicholas Sparks visited the Southern Kentucky Book Fest on Saturday at the Carroll Knicely Conference Center on South Campus. Sparks was one of more than 100 authors who attended.

Sparks highlight of annual Book Fest

By KEVIN ALLEN
news@chherald.com

Lovers of literature lined up to listen and talk to their favorite authors last weekend at the 13th annual Southern Kentucky Book Fest.

The event featured presentations from authors known throughout the region and nation, including Nicholas Sparks, author of novels such as “The Notebook” and “A Walk to Remember.”

Throughout the day on Saturday, rows of authors sat at tables signing and selling their books and talking with fans and other authors who walked by.

Sharon Grove junior Zoe Pettit said she has attended the festival three times.

“It’s always a good experience in my world,” Pettit said. “Just being able to walk around and seeing a book you’ve never read before and being able to look at it and go, ‘This looks interesting,’ then having the author tell you about it.”

The relationships that develop between readers and authors at the event are interesting, Pettit said.

“When I was younger, I came to one and had the author send me an additional book because I made such an impression

on them,” Pettit said.

It’s also great for the authors to meet and talk to fans and fellow authors, said psychological thriller writer J.T. Ellison.

“It’s actually been really great — there has been a lot of people here,” Ellison said. “I think a lot of people came to see Nick Sparks, a lot of people to see Jean Auel. I got to see Jean Auel, who is one of my heroes. I rank it up there very high.”

The festival started on Friday with a children’s day for grade schoolers to hear authors read aloud from their books, in addition to a writers conference to help guide aspiring authors.

Chuck Sambuchino, editor for Writer’s Digest Books and author of “How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack,” said he was excited about the book fest and writer’s conference.

“The most notable thing about the Kentucky Writers Conference is that it’s free,” Sambuchino said. “I’ve been to 50 writer’s conferences over the past four years, and I’ve never seen one that is free. That is amazing.”

Sambuchino encouraged people to come next year because there’s something for both writers and readers, and it’s both helpful and fun.

Students donating meal plans to charity

By LINDSAY KRIZ
news@chherald.com

A tub was placed outside Minton Hall’s lobby on Sunday, about a third of it filled with Pop-Tarts, Nutri-Grain bars and cereal bowls an hour into the first week of the “Share A Swipe” program.

Elizabethtown junior Tyler Jury stood by the bin, approaching passing students and handing them flyers with information about the program.

“I’m feeling good about this,” Jury said. “We wanted to help WKU and the Bowling Green community. Even small things can make a difference.”

“Share A Swipe” encourages students to use their extra meal plans to purchase nonperishable foods for charity.

Dry foods that don’t often expire are encouraged contributions. One meal plan can equal three Pop-Tarts packs, three Nutri-Grain bars, two Rice Krispies treats, two power bars or two cereal bowls.

The purchased food can be dropped off in a bin located in Minton Hall’s lobby.

Paducah junior Katie Knecht said she and a group of about 10 others came up with the idea for “Share A Swipe.”

A Facebook group for the program, which began its first collection on Sunday, had about 150 say they were attending.

Knecht hopes bins will eventually be located in other dorm lobbies as well as in the Downing University Center.

The same group meets in Garrett Conference Center for book discussions relative to charity. They also skip lunch on Wednesdays and instead donate the money.

“This semester we’ve been discussing ‘Outlive Your Life’ by Max Lucado,” Knecht said. “He talks about taking action, and the book talked about hunger.”

Knecht said this gave the group their idea for the project.

“It’s a simple way for people to help out,” she said.

Owensboro freshman Griffin Fruge, another group member and project co-creator, said he and the group wanted to be proactive.

“We want to feed those in need — not just with food, but with love,” he said.

Fruge said the lunch group discussed the idea of “Share A Swipe” last semester, but it was never put into action.

“I’m not expecting a huge crowd (Sunday),” he said. “But we hope that it’ll grow eventually.”

LIBRARY

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“It’s basically an idea of creating a really warm, inviting space where students can come and do their research and have librarians available to help them even though they’re doing their research online,” he said.

This commons wouldn’t be a computer lab, but rather an open space with power connections and wireless Internet, Owen said.

He said a possible model of this space is at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which has an “open, inviting, friendly atmosphere.”

President Gary Ransdell said redesigning the libraries would mean renovations to current facilities rather than a new building.

“Those buildings have some real needs. They have a lot of age on them,” Ransdell said. “I don’t see in the next 10 years a new building, but I do see signif-

icant renovation of our library spaces.”

Connie Foster, department head of Library Technical Services, said the committee will discuss other areas as well.

“We are going to explore various organizational structures, both some with-in and some without, meaning external review as well as internal review,” Foster said. “There are changes that could occur in terms of department names more reflective of current services.”

Foster said it’s too early to tell what concrete changes could be made.

“We hope to have a plan in place, or at least a preliminary draft of a plan, by the end of fall semester,” she said.

Foster replaced Michael Binder as interim dean of Libraries on Monday.

Binder will be a special assistant to the provost from April 18 to June 30 and will return to the libraries as a faculty member July 1, Foster said.

“There’s going to be a very interactive process with a lot of discussion and dialogue,” Owen said.



RICE CHASING RECORDS | PAGE 3B



BANQUET HONORS SENIORS | PAGE 5B

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FOOTBALL



JABIN E. BOTSFORD/HERALD

Red team wide receiver Neil Wilson and white team defensive back Kareem Peterson dive, missing a pass Saturday afternoon at the spring game in Houchens-Smith Stadium. The white team won 27-11.

Forward motion

Spring game a stepping stone for Tops

By EMILY PATTON
sports@chherald.com

It was a spring game that left Head Coach Willie Taggart hopeful for what's to come.

Last Saturday's red-white game capped off a four-week spring football season for the Toppers that began on March 21.

"We are 10 times better than we were last spring," Taggart said. "I thought that throughout this whole spring, not just this game, they practiced with a purpose."

The white team finished on top of the red with a 27-11 victory, and Taggart said he believes the white team represented what the whole team can become.

"One sideline was upbeat and ready

to go the entire game," Taggart said. "The other sideline wasn't. I think that is a big part of it that gets our guys down. The red team was more like how we used to be. The white team was more where we are trying to go."

"Just trying to teach those guys that you can't get down, you got to keep coming, keep playing, keep fighting."

The spring game revealed an offensive passing game that had been quiet last season.

Before spring began, Taggart said the quarterback position was an open competition for freshman redshirt Brandon Doughty and junior Kawaun Jakes.

Each player's leadership abilities and knowledge of the offense could get either of them the position, Taggart said.

But Jakes put a foot in front of the

competition at the spring game, where he earned the Most Valuable Player award.

He went 10-of-16, passing for 157 yards and two touchdowns, while Doughty went 6-of-23 for 72 yards and a touchdown.

"He stepped up, and that's what we expect from our quarterback to do for us," Taggart said. "I thought from a leadership standpoint, he did some really good things of building his teammates up."

"In the huddle you can constantly hear him telling guys, 'Let's go, good job,' celebrating with them and just a totally different person than what he's been."

SEE SPRING, PAGE 2B

GOLF



JABIN E. BOTSFORD/HERALD

Sophomore Kelsey Burrell, senior JoAnna Smith, back left, and WKU head women's golf coach Ron Burchett, back right, watch as sophomore Kristen Wilkinson putts Wednesday at the Bowling Green Country Club during practice.

Golf teams see progression under full-time coaches

By COLE CLAYBOURN
sports@chherald.com

Senior Jordan Magruder said she knew the women's golf team was on the brink of success for the past several years.

When the Lady Toppers finished second in three different tournaments last semester, that notion was even more solidified.

But this semester, it became a reality when they won their first tournament since 2006, coming in first place out of five teams at the Troy Invitational.

The difference, she said, was that they now have a full-time coach.

Ron Burchett was hired as the full-time women's golf coach in August after spending six seasons with the team — the last two as part-time head coach.

Now that he's full-time, Burchett said he's seen an immediate difference with the team, simply because he can be around more often.

The Lady Toppers will try to make that extra attention pay off this week as they compete in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament in Muscle Shoals, Ala. The event began Monday and runs through Wednesday.

"I think it's proven that with the more time we're able to put into it, it's showing on the golf course," he said. "Now, being here full-time, we have more organized practices, and we're able to play more times."

Magruder said the players have noticed a difference as well. Under a part-time coach, the players often practiced on their own.

SEE GOLF, PAGE 5B



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College Heights Herald Sports

Jakes, new Toppers shine in front of sparse crowd

Thoughts while warming up from a cold Saturday in the Houchens-Smith Stadium press box:

■ It wasn't quite the 15,000 that Willie Taggart wanted.

In fact, the estimated 1,250 fans that attended WKU's annual spring game on Saturday fell well short of the goal Taggart and the Toppers set earlier this spring.

Cold and rainy weather played a large role in keeping the fans away. I spoke to a few officials who genuinely expected about 10,000 with good conditions.

Taggart said after the game — which was a 27-11 win for the white team — that he truly thought WKU could have pulled 15,000 in the stadium on a nice day.

But more likely than not, 15,000 wasn't going to happen, and WKU knew that. Bringing in 4,000-5,000 would have been a major victory and a nice step in making the spring game part of the culture here.

But Mother Nature didn't cooperate. "The football gods have a plan for us," Taggart said. "They weren't ready for Coach Taggart to get his goal right now. We're going to get there, and you have to start somewhere."

Taggart's right — you have to start somewhere. He did everything he could to spark interest around campus, including carrying a bullhorn to help spread the word.

Even though Taggart's been living things up for more than a year now, it's the type of energy the program still needs, as the fan base has become pretty apathetic in recent years.

Students still aren't making it to the stadium in the spring or the fall, giving almost a complete dismissal of receiving free entry to Division I football games.

But the reality is nothing's going to draw people in like consistent winning.

Even then 15,000 would be a lofty goal. But until the program is able to fully change course, Taggart and WKU will just have to keep hitting the streets and taking what they can get.

■ It's abundantly clear that junior Kawaun Jakes is the man to lead WKU as quarterback next season.

Jakes, the spring game's Most Valuable Player, looked calm and poised while leading the white squad down the field. He made some crisp passes and used his rushing instincts well, gaining 40 yards on the ground on nine carries.

Having not seen any of Matt Pelesasa or Brandon Doughty last year, many — including myself — questioned if Jakes was the right person for the job.

There's no question this year. He still has plenty to learn, but it seems the gap between Jakes and Doughty is widening every day.

That confidence and security should make for some faster progression next fall.

■ There were several others who got the chance to show their stuff in the game, including wide receivers Joel German, Rico Brown and Jamarielle Brown.

It had to bring a smile to Taggart's face to see some of those receivers make plays, because Jakes' maturation isn't going to mean much if he doesn't have any targets.

Running back Keshawn Simpson finished as the leading rusher for both teams, and walk-on linebacker C.J. Odom led all defensive players with nine tackles.

The spring game is really about the chance to see what guys like them can do. There's not much to be learned from watching Jakes move the ball on his own teammates, but something can be said for the ones who take advantage of a chance to step up.

Just 1,250 saw those players grow up a little on Saturday, but if Taggart and company can sustain their enthusiasm, there will be more eyes in the stands down the road.



ZACH GREENWELL
Press Row Perspective
sports@chherald.com



JABIN E. BOTSFORD/HERALD

Gatton Academy juniors Jon Warren of Lewisport and Nathan Lasley of Owensboro cheer on Saturday afternoon at the spring game in Houchens-Smith Stadium. The white team won 27-11.

SPRING

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

After an injury to sophomore wide receiver Willie McNeal early this season, the wide receiver position looked depleted.

But Jakes found a way to spread the ball to six different receivers.

"The scheme we had going in, they were with it," Jakes said. "The receivers were going no-huddle, up-tempo, trying to get the defense tired. They were with it, and it paid off."

The ground game for the Toppers also was surprising, with senior running back Bobby Rainey not leading in rushing yards.

Instead, it was sophomore Keshawn Simpson that took over the honor with 52 rushing yards and one touchdown.

"Overall, I think we all worked hard, all the running backs," Simpson said. "Together I think we should take some of the pressure off of Bobby so he won't get as much hits next year."

Besides discovering the offensive potential, Taggart said he also found some true supporters of WKU football.

An estimated 1,250 fans braved the temperatures in the mid-40s and cloudy skies to watch the spring game.

Although Taggart had set the goal of having 15,000 fans attend, he said he's still hopeful that WKU will eventually become the first Sun Belt Conference school to do so.

"We are going to get there," he said. "You have to start somewhere. Mother Nature — you can't do anything about that. But I know this for a fact. If it were a sunny day out there,

“

We are going to get there. You have to start somewhere. Mother Nature — you can't do anything about that. But I know this for a fact. If it were a sunny day out there, we would have gotten 15,000 fans out there. No doubt about it."

—WILLIE TAGGART
Head coach

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With the spring season behind the Toppers now, Jakes said the team is already looking toward the fall.

WKU's 2011 season opens against Kentucky at L.P. Field in Nashville on Sept. 1.

"We aren't near where we want to be," Jakes said. "We have the summer offseason coming up. I told the dudes to just come in and work."



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BASEBALL

Rice hopes to break records against Kentucky

By **BRAD STEPHENS**
sports@chherald.com

Matt Rice has a chance to add two big milestones to his legendary Topper career tonight.

The senior catcher is tied for first place on the all-time WKU hits list with 281 and is second in career RBIs with 207, just one short of the record.

Rice will have a chance to break both records tonight at Bowling Green Ballpark in the Toppers’ highly anticipated 6 p.m. matchup with Kentucky.

Last year WKU dismantled the Wildcats, 24-8, in front of 6,183 fans at the ballpark.

WKU Head Coach Chris Finwood said that if anyone deserved to get the records in front of a big crowd, it’s Rice.

“That’d be awful neat to stop the game and give him that ball and have everybody give him a standing ovation,” Finwood said. “He’s been such a special, special player for us, and I really feel privileged to have had the chance to coach him.”

If Rice has a repeat of his performance in the 24-8 game last season, then he’ll easily surpass both records tonight.

Rice went 5-for-6 with three RBIs against the Wildcats a year ago.

He said the records are something he tries to keep off his mind.

“I try not to think about it a lot,” Rice said. “But now that it’s so close, the only thing I can think about is that I’d rather do it at home.”

Rice won’t be the only Topper catcher with a chance at history tonight.

Former WKU catcher Jack Glasser will see his No. 14 jersey retired before the game.

He was an All-Ohio Valley Conference Selection from 1971-1973 and had a career .326 batting average.

Glasser, a local family practitioner, will be the first player in WKU baseball history to see his number officially retired by the program.

“Dr. Glasser means everything to this program,” Finwood said. “He’s



ASA BLACK/HERALD

Sophomore pitcher Andrew Zimmerman pitches during WKU's second game against Arkansas State on Saturday. The Toppers defeated ASU 13-2.

such an icon in the city of Bowling Green and such a special guy. I certainly haven’t been here that long, but I can’t think of anyone that’s more deserving of being our first baseball player to have their number retired.”

While history will be the theme of the evening, what’s not lost to the players is the rivalry between the two schools.

WKU has defeated Kentucky in their last three meetings, something that junior left fielder Jared Andreoli said is fine with him.

“Most people are Kentucky fans, but I personally hate Kentucky,” Andreoli said. “So I think everyone just wants to go out there and prove that Western

Kentucky can hang with UK.”

The Toppers come into tonight with some solid momentum after winning four of their last five games, most recently taking the first two of a three-game Sun Belt series against Arkansas State.

WKU now has a 24-13 record in 2011, compared to Kentucky’s 17-20 record for the season.

The Wildcats have especially struggled in Southeastern Conference play, going 2-13 in the SEC.

But Finwood said he thinks Kentucky will still be a tough opponent.

“We’ve beaten them three in a row, and they know that,” Finwood said. “So they’ll be fired up to play there.”

“

Most people are Kentucky fans, but I personally hate Kentucky. So I think everyone just wants to go out there and prove that Western Kentucky can hang with UK.”

—JARED ANDREOLI
Junior left fielder

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Like To Know?

SOFTBALL

Lady Tops in battle for Sun Belt positioning

By NICK BRATCHER
sports@chherald.com

The Lady Toppers have a race to the finish following a series loss to Florida International this weekend.

WKU (23-22, 4-11 Sun Belt Conference) split the first day of action Saturday, losing to FIU, 7-1, in the first game and winning the second game, 5-4.

But the Lady Toppers came up short of a winning weekend on Sunday and fell to FIU, 13-2, in the final game of the three-game series.

Head Coach Tyra Perry said she was disappointed with grabbing just one win from the weekend, but the win still provides significance in the team's quest for the postseason.

"We've got to get as many wins as possible," she said. "One win may not have been our goal, but in the end, that one win could be what puts us in front."

WKU currently resides in ninth place in the Sun Belt. The Lady Toppers are 1 and 1/2 games behind North Texas and Middle Tennessee after the weekend's losses, although they've played three less games than each team.

The ninth-place team from the Sun Belt's regular season play is excluded from the Sun Belt tournament. WKU was the team left out in 2010.

Freshman shortstop Amanda Thomas said she definitely feels like the team is under pressure.

"I feel like there's been pressure there the whole season, but we've been telling ourselves not to let that pressure effect how we play," she said. "We can't let it make us scared or timid. We

have to be fearless every single game."

Sophomore Karavin Dew played a key role in WKU's crucial win Saturday by hitting a game-winning home run for WKU in the seventh inning.

She said she made an effort to step up where the team has struggled in crucial points all season.

"I was just trying to leave it all on the field and give everything I had for the team," Dew said. "If it works out, it's great. If not, then at least I gave it my best."

Dew also said she hoped the team took notice as they enter a crucial point in the season. "If they see that I'm giving everything I have, then hopefully that'll make them want to leave everything they have out there too," she said.

The Lady Toppers have nine conference games left over the next three weeks to move out of that ninth-place spot.

Perry said the team should be feeling the pressure after not playing to its full potential.

"We've done this to ourselves," she said. "We have to play with heart in every out and every inning."

Dew said she remembers last year's Lady Topper ninth-place finish all too well, and she'd like to avoid a repeat this season.

"We definitely know we need to step it up if we're going to make it," she said. "We'd like the freshmen to not have to experience that at all."

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TRACK & FIELD

Kipchirchir's win highlights weekend at split meets

By LUCAS AULBACH
sports@chherald.com

The WKU track and field teams split up and performed at two meets on separate sides of the country this past weekend.

Most members of the teams competed in a meet at the University of Tennessee.

A small group of distance runners took a trip to California on Wednesday to take part in a competition there. They returned Saturday afternoon.

Good performances were put up in both meets.

Sophomore distance runner Shadrack Kipchirchir took first place in the 10,000-meter run in California with a time of 29:35.73, and senior thrower Laura Igaune broke her own WKU and Latvian national records in the hammer throw at Tennessee Thursday with a throw of 207 feet, 2 inches.

Igaune also moved into second place at WKU in the women's discus with a toss of 167 feet, 10 inches.

"Laura broke her own records and was really able to solidify her position in the national rankings," Head Coach Erik Jenkins said.

In California, senior Rachel Friedman was able to set personal records in the steeplechase and 1,500-meter run. Her time of 11:08.16 in the steeplechase moved her into fourth all-time in the event at WKU.

"I think as a group, we all took a little extra time to prepare for this meet in particular," Friedman said.

Assistant Coach Michelle Scott was also with the team in California and said the athletes had a good time and ran well.

"(Junior) Michelle Finn's run in the steeple was the second-fastest time ever recorded for WKU," she said.

Finn's performance in the steeplechase was clocked at 10:51.43.

Freshman David Mokone also set the third-best time in WKU history in the 1,500-meter run.

Jenkins, who was with the majority of the team in Tennessee, said he was pleased with

“

We had a mixed bag of tricks in Tennessee. Any time you have intermittent weather conditions like that, it's hard to get a lot of things accomplished."

—ERIK JENKINS
Head coach

how the teams did in California.

"It's always good to see that many records fall in one meet," he said.

The weather played different roles at the separate meets. Friedman called the weather in California "amazing," with temperatures reaching the mid-80s most days.

The weather in Tennessee was not so great, however. The teams in attendance were forced to struggle with changing weather all day at the meet, including rain, cold temperatures and heavy wind.

"We had a mixed bag of tricks in Tennessee," Jenkins said. "Any time you have intermittent weather conditions like that, it's hard to get a lot of things accomplished."

The teams will be split again next weekend. Most of the team will compete in a meet in Louisville, while some distance runners will go to Vanderbilt, where the five-kilometer run is offered.

"We wanted to run a 5k, and Louisville is just more suited for the steeple," Scott said.

Friedman said that she and her teammates will enjoy resting before this weekend.

"After these past two meets, I think we're going to get some good recovery in this week," she said.



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BASKETBALL



JABIN E. BOTSFORD/HERALD
Seniors Sergio Kersch, left, and Arnika Brown laugh at the highlights video Thursday evening at the men's and women's basketball banquet in the Topper Club in Houchens-Smith Stadium.

Kersch, Pettigrew, McNear earn MVP honors at banquet

By BRAD STEPHENS
sports@chherald.com

The 2010-2011 WKU men's and women's basketball seasons officially came to an end last Thursday night at an awards banquet held in the Topper Club at Houchens-Smith Stadium.

Senior forwards Steffphon Pettigrew and Sergio Kersch both received the Clem Haskins Most Valuable Player Award for the men's team.

Kersch led the Toppers in scoring this year with a 15.6 point per game average and also grabbed an average of 7.9 rebounds a game.

Meanwhile, Pettigrew averaged 14.6 points and 6.1 rebounds while leading WKU in minutes played with 33.9 per game.

Men's Head Coach Ken McDonald said Kersch and Pettigrew have different personalities, but both were equally valuable to the team.

"Sergio brought charisma, energy and passion to the team," McDonald said. "And I might have him back here in a few years running my basketball camps because he's so great with kids."

"Pettigrew is more of a quiet assassin. He's hard-nosed and has incredible character. He's what we want the image of our program to be."

WKU's other graduating senior, Juan Pattillo, was absent from the banquet.

The Toppers had a 16-16 overall record but finished the year with an 11-5 run, which ended in the semifinals of the Sun Belt tournament.

"We had seven new guys, which was a challenge, and we didn't find that chemistry," McDonald said. "We want to put a product on the floor that people are excited about watching. The fans will matriculate back and understand this is a team they can be proud of watching."

"We will play a whole lot harder on the court, and I think the fans are going to see that."

Senior point guard Amy McNear was awarded the women's MVP honor after averaging 10.8 points per game and finishing fourth in the nation last season with 6.8 assists per game.

The Lady Toppers went 15-17, losing the Sun Belt Conference Championship game to Arkansas-Little Rock.

GOLF

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

But under a full-time coach, Magruder said the practices are more structured, which has led to more team discipline.

"We all have certain swing coaches that we'll go to, but just to have someone there when we're practicing helps too," she said. "If we go get a lesson, we won't see that person for a week. With a coach there, he's there all the time to just keep us on track."

Often, not all of the players would be able to practice at the same time when there was a part-time coach. Magruder said now they're all practicing together as a team.

The men's team is also experiencing its first season with a full-time head coach.

Phillip Hatchett was introduced as the full-time head coach in August and echoed what Burchett said about the benefits of expanding the job.

"Having a full-time coach here, the guys know they have someone who they can depend on," he said. "They get a little more attention, which is important in golf. For me, it's great because I get to see these guys developing."

Other awards received included:

■ Men's basketball

- E.A. Diddle Award: Steffphon Pettigrew
- Jim McDaniels Leading Scorer Award: Sergio Kersch
- Danny Rumph Outstanding Team-mate Award: Caden Dickerson
- Ralph Crosthwaite Field Goal Accuracy Award: Juan Pattillo
- Darel Carrier Free Throw Accuracy Award: Caden Dickerson
- Tom Marshall Rebounder of the Year: Juan Pattillo
- Dwight Smith Playmaker of the Year: Jamal Crook
- John Oldham Most Improved Player: Jamal Crook
- Bobby Rascoe Defensive Player of the Year: Juan Pattillo
- Dixie Mahurin Academic Award: Caden Dickerson
- Jones Family Appreciation Award: Deborah Wilkins, WKU Chief of Staff and General Counsel

■ Women's basketball

- Coach's Award: Jasmine Johnson
- Free Throw Accuracy Awards: Amy McNear, Chaney Means, Vanessa Obafemi
- Academic Achievement: Arnika Brown, Mimi Hill, Teranie Thomas
- Scholar Athlete: Chaney Means

"That really created some memories that, in my opinion, kind of overshadowed the rest of the season," Head Coach Mary Taylor Cowles said. "I wish, as a head coach, I could've figured out what we did in the tournament a lot earlier in the season and maybe have been able to incorporate some of those things."

Cowles confirmed after the banquet that the team has an assistant coach opening on staff, as coach Latasha Dorsey is no longer with the team.

The men's team hasn't experienced the type of success that the women's team has just yet, but junior Andrew Heiser said he too can see immediate differences under Hatchett.

He said the players have seen improvements in virtually every aspect of their games.

"When we had a part-time coach, we had no idea what we were doing wrong, and it stayed that way," he said. "Now he's there and can get us back on track."

Athletics Director Ross Bjork said having full-time coaches are beneficial for numerous reasons aside from just the logistics of them putting in more time.

He said it impacts the recruiting aspect as well. Bjork said before, some players wouldn't consider WKU because they didn't have a full-time program.

Bjork said he's hoping that changes under full-time coaches. The Toppers compete in their Sun Belt tournament on April 25-27 in Muscle Shoals.

"When you have full-time coaches, they can fully dedicate themselves," Bjork said. "That goes for travel, to go watch tournaments and to do all of the other things that coaches in college golf and athletics are doing."

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